

THE DIRT

MMG's EMPLOYEE MAGAZINE

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AWARD WINNING ERT COMPETES INTERSTATE

By Jillian D'Urso, Communications Advisor, Century

BEING FAR FROM THEIR HOME BASE IN NORTH-WEST QUEENSLAND DIDN'T PREVENT CENTURY'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) FROM PERFORMING WELL AT THE NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW) MINES RESCUE COMPETITION IN OCTOBER.

One of only two teams outside of NSW asked to participate in the competition, and the only metalliferous mine at the competition, Century's ERT came up against 11 teams from across the state's coal mining operations.

Representing the mine's broader ERT were team captain Allan Grant, deputy team captain Chris Green, Trish Ericson, Troy Hartwell, Mark Saipe, Scott Pate, Chris Watson, Brent Simmons and Craig Jensen. They were supported by Safety and Emergency Technicians Tom Smith and Marco Aichino.

The team performed strongly in all categories, and took out second place in the Hazmat response scenario and third place in the fire fighting category.

Health and Hygiene Coordinator Bernie Murphy said that team's performance was something to be proud of, especially as it was first time they had competed outside of Queensland.

"The team doing so well in an out-of-state competition and in unfamiliar settings demonstrates the high calibre of Century's ERT."

Acting Safety and Emergency Technician Marco Aichino said that participating in the competition was a sensational opportunity for Century's ERT to share knowledge and learn from others in the industry.

"We learnt so much from the experience – these lessons will help us to further strengthen emergency response at Century.

"We were also able to share our experiences and knowledge with the NSW teams, who were amazed at how isolated our sites are and were impressed with some the equipment we had available to us."

The team's success at the NSW Mines Rescue Competition builds on their strong performance at the 2011 North West Queensland Mines Rescue, where the team took first, second and third placings in various categories.

Century's ERT team provides critical emergency response and specialist safety support and advice at the mine's Lawn Hill and Karumba sites.

Image: Members of Century's Emergency Response Team at the NSW Mine Rescue Competition in October.



'MICK'S MACHINE' DELIVERS COST SAVINGS AND MORE

By Ted Woodruff, Communications Advisor, Golden Grove

INTRODUCTION OF A PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) VENDING MACHINE, IS SAVING GOLDEN GROVE MORE THAN 40% ON THE COST OF PPE.

PPE is an essential tool for the health and safety of employees, but at Golden Grove it was identified that an excessive amount was used, with no tracking of who was using the equipment or how often. This also made managing stock levels extremely difficult. Golden Grove Production Shift Supervisor Mick Fear accepted the task of solving the problem.

After conducting research, Mick discovered Industrial Vending Systems, a vending solutions company who provided a simple and cost effective answer of a PPE vending machine, allowing employees to source PPE by swiping a key card and selecting the required equipment.

The vending machine, which is connected to the internet and Industrial Vending System's server in Sydney, provides monthly reports on individual usage and manages departmental charges, as well as providing data for inventory control.

After an initial three-month trial, the data has shown there has been an approximate saving of 44% on the previous year. While the cash benefits are obvious, there are also a number of less tangible benefits of the project

including increased accountability and care of equipment by individuals; less PPE left lying around resulting in a tidier work area; time saved due to reduced housekeeping requirements; less waste to dispose of; and the installation of a 'behavioural value' of cost-saving in the workplace.

Alternate Mine Manager Wayne Ghavalas said that Mick Fear ran the project from start to finish, and should be congratulated on a tremendous job.

"Mick has showed excellent initiative in exploring and evaluating improvement opportunities for this issue and for delivering a sound solution," Wayne said.

"The vending machine is now commonly referred to as 'Mick's Machine' given he drove the project and produced such a fantastic outcome."

A number of other people also assisted in this project including Gerrard Groves, Colin Sinclair, the Scuddles office administration team and the mine administrators.

The concept of the PPE vending machine is now being explored across other areas of the business.

Image: Shane Cowan demonstrates how the PPE vending machine works.

